CITY OF POQUOSON

500 CITY HALL AVENUE, POQUOSON, VIRGINIA 23662-1996
(757) 868-3000 FAX (757) 868-3101

Office of the Mayor

January 22, 2008

Congresswoman Thelma Drake
1208 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515-4602

Dear Congresswoman Drake:

As the Mayor of a small coastal city situated along the Chesapeake Bay, I write to you regarding a most urgent issue on behalf of many of our citizens. The community of Poquoson is home for many individuals who make their livings harvesting the seafood from the coastal waters of Virginia. Unfortunately at this time, their livelihood and in reality their lives and the welfare of their families are in jeopardy. In jeopardy not because there is a lack of seafood to he harvested and brought to market, rather in jeopardy due to the inability of the seafood processing industry to be ahle to do their part. At the core of the problem is the lack of available domestic labor to perform the seafood processing function. The only solution to keeping these processing operations in business and in so doing sustaining the livelihood of the waterman, is through the authorization of additional workers under the H-2B program of the Save Our Small and Seasonal Business Act of 2005 (SOS Act).

I thank you in advance on behalf of our community and specifically the watermen of our community for your swift consideration and support of the authorization of additional workers under H-2B program or the authorization by Congress of the "returning worker" provision of the SOS Act for FY 2008.

Sincerely,

Gordon C. Helsel, Jr.
Mayor